

Saade-Scaff holds a Master of Music degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. where he studied with virtuoso Hungarian violinist and renowned pedagogue Robert Gerle. He has been rewarded with special distinctions such as the “Commander of the National Merit Order” given by the President of Ecuador for his work in favour of Ecuadorian Arts and Culture (2002). The Ecuadorian Congress decorated him with the highest cultural award, the “Vicente Rocafuerte Medal for Cultural Merit” (2004). Dr Alfredo Palacio, former President of Ecuador, presented him with the “**National Order to the Official Merit of Ecuador**” (2007), the highest decoration given by the Ecuadorian Government .

Mr Saade-Scaff has performed in concerts around the world. He has served as the Cultural and Press Attaché of the Ecuadorian Embassy in Washington D.C. and Cultural Representative of Ecuador to the Organisation of American States from June 1997 until February 2003. He is currently Professor at the Universidad Espíritu Santo in Guayaquil, Ecuador and Professor Ad-Honorem of violin and viola at the National Conservatoire of Music in Guayaquil and is member of the board of directors of the Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra of Ecuador and Cultural Advisor for the Washington Symphony Orchestra and the Pan-American Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C.

JORGE SAADE-SCAFF

An outstanding violinist who has captivated audiences all over the world with his enormous sound, compelling virtuoso performances and charismatic personality.

PAGANINI DUO

They have performed in venues such as the famous Carnegie Hall (New York), Teatro Colón (Buenos Aires), Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington), Unesco (Paris), Marble Room and Duma Palace (Budapest), the Royal Palace (Warsaw) and the United Nations (Geneva), among others. They have recorded a CD entitled *From Paganini to the Andes* (2003).

“Almeida’s style is pure and fluid while Saade-Scaff is powerful like a human dynamo. The fusion of these balancing elements of style has given rise to the Duo’s transcontinental repertoire. Both artists have an acute intensity, and yet as a Duo they are able to meld their individual skills to form a unique equilibrium based on both precision and passion.”

Anita Hoshi, “INOARTS”, Washington, D.C.,
December 2004

Almeida has won prizes in several national and international competitions. First prize in the 1982 National Competition for Classical Guitar in Quito Ecuador. Third prize in the 1996 Competition for the Scholarship for Cultural Promotion given by the Association of Business and Industry of Münster, Germany. Second prize in the 1998 Chamber Industry Music Competition of Wuppertal, Germany. “Diploma al Merito” in the 1999 Torneo Internazionale di Musica in Roma, Italy. Most recently Mr Almeida was honoured by the Ecuadorian National Congress with their highest cultural decoration, the “Vicente Rocafuerte” Medal for Cultural Merit. He has recorded two solo albums and one with *Duo Paganini* plus several recordings for radio and TV in partnerships with broadcasters such as WDR (West German Radio), SFB (Radio Berlin), Radio Bartok of Budapest, National Radio of Buenos Aires and Sí TV of Ecuador.

JULIO ALMEIDA

He is a respected guitar soloist and chamber musician with recitals throughout Europe, North and South America and is enthusiastically received by the public and international press alike.

